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Patterson bill freezes landfill growth

Lansing – The House Wednesday passed Sen. Bruce Patterson’s bill to place a two-year moratorium on new landfill construction.

Part of a multi-bill package designed to curb the flow of out-of-state waste into Michigan, SB 506 passed overwhelmingly.

“This is an important step in protecting Michigan’s environment from the influx of trash,” said Patterson (R-Canton). “Limiting the number of landfills limits the amount of trash that can be taken in from out of state. Michigan legislators and waste planning officials need time to gather information so we can avoid over-planning for capacity. Over planning is one of the principal reasons why this state is seen as a dumping ground in the Midwest.”

The moratorium for any new landfill construction permits would begin on Jan. 1, 2004 and end on Jan. 1, 2006. The bill allows the state Department of Environmental Quality to issue permits if remaining capacity of a landfill dips beneath five years.

The House also passed three other bills in the package that would prohibit landfill disposal of computer monitors and televisions that contain lead-laden materials, require waste haulers to notify their customers of what materials are banned from landfills, and require each landfill owner or operator to annually report to the DEQ on the capacity of their landfill.

The other bills in the package are still under consideration in the House.

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